

vote No. 466, on the Watt Amendment to the Pledge Protection Act, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 467, on final passage of the Pledge Protection Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 468, on the Adoption Tax Guarantee Relief Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 469, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 785, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 470, on Ordering the Previous Question on the Conference Report for the All American Tax Relief Act, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 471, on Agreeing to the Resolution, "aye"; and rollcall vote No. 472, on Final Passage of the All-American Tax Relief Act, "aye."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE CHARLES BUSS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to recognize Charles Buss for his exemplary service as Chief District Court Judge for Mesa County, Colorado. For over 27 years, Judge Buss has served the people of Mesa County, and Colorado, with honor and distinction. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his commitment and dedication to our justice system.

Charles began his career as a private practice attorney before being appointed to the Mesa County Court by Governor Richard Lamm in 1977. In 1987, he was appointed Chief Judge where he was responsible for overseeing the Twenty-First Judicial District's administrative, budget, and personnel decisions during a time when the local caseload more than doubled. Judge Buss was also instrumental in the modernization of the district by bringing computer automation to the court system, and encouraging the construction of a new Justice Center.

As a community leader, Judge Buss served on the Colorado Juvenile Justice Council for 15 years. He was also a member of the Mesa County Partners' board and the Mesa County Community Corrections board. Currently, he is serving as a chairman of a court reform committee regarding dependency and neglect.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Judge Charles Buss before this body of Congress and this Nation today. Judge Buss was an excellent trial judge and his dedication to the people of Mesa County, Colorado and the Justice System will be missed. It is a great pleasure to recognize his efforts and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL GORGE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a Colorado landmark, the Royal Gorge Bridge. Canon City is celebrating the Bridge's 75th anniversary this year, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing this tremendous engineering achievement before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Construction began on the Royal Gorge Bridge on June 5, 1929 and was completed in less than six months with no loss of life. Built using more than 100 tons of Colorado produced steel and 1,300 wooded planks, the bridge spans a record breaking 1,053 feet above the floor of the gorge. Since being dedicated on December 6, 1929, the bridge has seen more than 20 million visitors and has been the location for movie and commercial filming, and various recreational activities. Today the bridge is the center piece of a sprawling 360 acre theme park bordering the Arkansas River.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Royal Gorge Bridge. The bridge is a symbol of American ingenuity and engineering, and has served the State of Colorado for over three quarters of a century. It is with great pleasure that I recognize this landmark before this body of Congress and this nation today.

A SALUTE TO MR. DONALD R. MANUEL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Donald R. Manuel, of Herndon, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after almost four decades of service to the United States Army.

Mr. Manuel received his commission as a second lieutenant, Field Artillery, in 1964 and quickly demonstrated expertise during his service at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the U.S. Army Engineer Supply Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1968, Mr. Manuel began his career as a United States Army civilian employee as program manager for Value Engineering, Methods and Standards, and Commercial Activities. In 1980, he obtained the position of assistant for General Engineering in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Housing). Mr. Manuel has become the Army's primary policy contact dealing with base closure and realignment actions.

Throughout his career, Mr. Manuel has provided outstanding leadership, advice and sound professional judgment on significant issues before Congress and the Army. His counsel was invaluable to Army leaders and members of Congress as policy implications were considered.

It is my pleasure to honor Mr. Manuel's distinguished record of public service and dedication to the United States Army. He has been a truly exceptional career civil servant and will be missed by the United States Army.

RECOGNIZING THE 175TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF CHESTER, IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring one of

the oldest and most historical communities in southwestern Illinois. The City of Chester is one hundred and seventy-five years old.

The town of Chester, also the county seat of Randolph County, traces its origins to its location as a river community along the bluffs of the Mississippi River. The river serves as the community's western boundary and has long been a critical part of Chester's history, development and growth.

The founding of Chester is traced to an early settler named Samuel Smith. Smith became associated with a small settlement otherwise known as Smith's landing, due to its proximity to a river ferry crossing and supporting business. In the summer of 1829 however, Smith erected a dwelling, established a ferry and began construction of a mill. His wife, a native of Chester, England, was named Jane Thomas. Thomas originally came to Illinois with the Swanwick family and bestowed the name of her home town on this new and growing settlement. Smith kept a hotel and ferried passengers across the river on a flatboat.

Chester's chief commodity back then was castor oil which was used as a lubricant; however Castor oil lost its importance as the petroleum industry developed. In production of this oil, Chester had the advantage over other surrounding communities in the region such as Pinckneyville and Frankfort, who also had castor oil presses, because of its close proximity to river transportation. Castor oil shipments from Chester were made to St. Louis, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and as far away as England. In 1830, Chester increased in size and an iron foundry, machine shop and several large stores were constructed on the riverfront. Steamboats did a brisk business at Chester.

In 1837, Nathan Cole began operating a small sawmill with a corn-grinding attachment. A few years later he converted this enterprise into a flourmill which became the Cole Milling Company, otherwise known as present day Con Agra. Cole Milling made use of one of the first electric generators, allowing its surplus power to be utilized for power to operate Chester's street lights. Chester actually became one of the first communities in the state to have electric street lights, even prior to their use in Chicago.

Samuel Clemens, otherwise known as Mark Twain, was a pilot on the Mississippi from 1857 to the Civil War and on several occasions stopped at Chester at the Cliff House, which was a river hotel.

In 1832-33, a cholera epidemic swept through the community which took many lives. South of the present site of the Con Agra Mill, a few stones on a hillside mark the burying place of those who died of the epidemic.

The Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard had its beginning during the Civil War when it was a repository for Confederate prisoners being transported to the Federal Prison on the Alton, Illinois riverfront. The original brick building is still standing inside the prison's yards.

After the capitol moved from Kaskaskia to Vandalia and later Springfield, Illinois the region had a disastrous flood in 1844. When the Randolph county seat was moved from Kaskaskia to Chester, records were stored in a schoolhouse which was the temporary courthouse until a new one was completed in 1848. The stone annex, now the Archives Building, was built in 1863 and serves today as a museum for Randolph County history. The new

Randolph County Courthouse, built in 1975, stands today on the bluff overlooking the river.

The buildings along the river that were part of the original town of Chester have been razed. However, a number of the old homes which stood on the bluffs above the town overlooking the river still give evidence of the wealth and the architectural style of that period. Many riverboat captains and other patrons of the river settled to this riverboat row of homes with an impressive overlook of the river.

Chester has had a rich and varied history in the development of the state of Illinois and of the nation. Illinois' first Governor, Shadrach Bond, has his resting place in Chester. Bond, who had lived in nearby Kaskaskia, was elected Governor without opposition in 1814, when Illinois was founded. Chester is also home to the Gilster Mary Lee mills and operations, producing high quality baking products for use throughout the world.

Chester also counts several historic homes as part of its heritage and culture. The Pierre Menard home is the finest example of Southern French Colonial architecture in the central part of the Mississippi river valley. Menard was a busy trader, storekeeper and politician of his period. He served as Lt. Governor under Governor Bond.

Chester is also home to one of America's most beloved cartoon characters, Popeye. Popeye's creator, Elzie Segar, was born in Chester and spent much of his youth there. When Elzie was 12 years old, he worked at the Chester Opera House and during that time he did odd jobs, played the drums with the orchestra and became the theatre's projectionist.

While films were re-wound, Popeye and many other characters were born as Elzie drew and showed them on glass slides before the local townspeople. Elize Segar and Popeye still have a place in Chester.

Chester today is a community of over 8500 people and boasts many hotels, restaurants and businesses. It continues to serve as a historic focal point for the development of southwestern and southern Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the community and people of Chester, Illinois and to recognize its role in the development of southwestern and southern Illinois.

HONORING FATHER JAVIER DE NICOLÓ

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on my behalf and on behalf of Mr. LANE EVANS, Mr. SAM FARR, Mr. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Mr. GERALD KLECZKA, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Mr. JAMES P. MCGOVERN, Mr. GREGORY MEEKS, and Mr. PETE STARK to honor the extraordinary contributions of Father Javier de Nicoló, a champion for the impoverished and forgotten children of Colombia. The methodology that he developed and instituted through the Bosconia Program, a child services program for children who live in the street without parents, serves as a model throughout the world.

Father Javier de Nicoló was born in Bari, Italy on April 29, 1928. At 18, shortly after the

end of World War II, he decided to join the Salesian Community in Naples, which has a strong record for its work with the poor. In 1948, he emigrated to Agua de Dios in Colombia to treat patients with Hansen's disease. In the late 1960s, Father de Nicoló served as the chaplain of the Carcel de Menores, a prison in Bogotá for minors.

There, Father de Nicoló learned that children entering Bogotá's prisons were beaten, robbed, and raped. This experience hardened them, making it difficult to reintroduce them into society. Father de Nicoló recognized the need to provide structure and guidance in the lives of abandoned children who roamed the street—before they found themselves in prison. In 1970, with 20 children released from the Carcel de Menores on his personal recognition, he organized Bosconia, a small, experimental learning community in the slums of Bogotá. Over time, Javier witnessed the transformation of hundreds of irresolute boys into confident and independent young adults through participation in his program.

In Bogotá, there are several thousand boys from ages 5 to 15 who live in anarchy. Death is a looming reality for Bogotá's street children. For many years, Colombia has experienced the highest child murder rate in the world. Vigilante groups engage in driveby shootings or "social cleansing" as they label it, which lead to the massacre of hundreds of children each year. Nearly all street children carry knives, which they use for protection and to intimidate others. Inevitably, some children kill each other in a scuffle that turns deadly. Dozens of children kill themselves by smoking highly addictive cocaine which can lead to paralysis. Child prostitutes contract AIDS and spread the disease.

What began as an experiment in the early 1970s has grown into an organization whose branches reach thousands of children in Bogotá, Cali, Medellín, and Buenaventura. The Bosconia Program is a mixture of vocational training and a boarding program designed to help the children ease themselves off the streets into a more traditional lifestyle. With only a handful of adult supervisors, it graduates a growing number of young adults into the workforce on a tight budget. Bosconia operates on the philosophy that the wit and spunk a child uses to survive in the street reflects an intelligence that the program's educators can redirect. In fact, the Bosconia Program has been replicated by many organizations in numerous countries. Nearly 20,000 youngsters from the street have been rescued by the Bosconia Program, saved from indifference and generalized violence, becoming elevated as individuals and members of society.

Programming at Bosconia strengthens the character of children who once lived in the streets of Colombia and provides them with the resources that they need to become active participants in society. Attracted to the promise of a better life, boys voluntarily enter the courtyard of Bosconia. The mark of those anarchic days of stealing, starving half-freezing, fear and bravado passes from their faces. They have learned to respect themselves because Father Javier de Nicoló, his associates, and the other boys had respected them.

Although graduates of Bosconia have the character and the will to engage in the Colombian workforce, the unemployment rate is steadily rising. Decades of violence that include murder, robbery, and kidnappings that

has ravaged the countryside have brought millions of rural people into the country's cities. Those that graduate from Bosconia will need more than spiritual transformation if they hope to compete for jobs that will allow them to live with dignity. This cold reality has encouraged Javier de Nicoló to seek private funds to establish a program that will allow his pupils to receive on-the-job training, earn and save money, and gain experience in managing small enterprises.

Many social scientists believe that personalities rarely change after children reach their teenage years. To the contrary, Javier de Nicoló has taught us that the odds can be beaten and that we should never forfeit our children—our future—to the vices that plague our streets. We should nurture them, inspire them, and invigorate their minds with the dream of living healthy and fulfilling lives. The world can use more people with the compassion and motivation of Father Javier de Nicoló. The children of Colombia are truly blessed to have him as their guardian. We thank him for his work, his resolve to make a better life for destitute children, and we learn from the wisdom of his successful model, seeking opportunities to replicate this success globally.

By dedicating over three decades to rescuing and integrating lost children into society, Father de Nicoló inspires a call for global solidarity and responsibility—one that reaches beyond the geographic bounds of Colombia. He has developed a process to guide personal and social renovation, giving life to children who are waiting for an opportunity to rejoin their families and communities as well as exercise their citizenship without discrimination. We applaud this leader who is a tireless advocate for the human rights of all our world's children.

HONORING ROBERT MOSES FOR
LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO
EDUCATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert Moses who tonight will receive the prestigious Harold W. McGraw Jr. Prize in Education. Dr. Moses is a Civil Rights activist, math educator and creator of the highly acclaimed Algebra Project, which is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Along with Dr. Moses, Geoffrey Canada, Cecelia Cunningham and Janet Lieberman are being honored during an awards ceremony at the New York Public Library. The four have been chosen to receive the prestigious 17th annual award for dedicating themselves to closing the achievement gap. These individuals have worked tirelessly and creatively to give children with few advantages the opportunity to achieve, both academically and ultimately professionally.

Dr. Moses believes that math literacy is the key to 21st Century citizenship. He created the Algebra Project to help middle school students make the conceptual shift from arithmetic to algebra so they can be prepared for algebra in the eighth grade, and thus a college preparatory math sequence in high school. Three decades later, the Algebra Project